GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:766
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2005
AMENDMENTS IN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Criminal Procedure Code;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce the concept of Plea Bargaining so as to reduce the number of pending cases in various courts of India; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to reduce the number of pending cases in various courts in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE(SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 containing 49 clauses and proposing amendment to various provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1994. The Government intends to get the Bill considered and passed in both the Houses of Parliament during the ongoing Budget Session after moving official amendments to the Bill on the basis of suggestions made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee. Similarly, Government introduced another Bill namely the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 on 22nd August, 2003 which, inter-alia, proposes to amend various provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure. 1973, including introduction of a new chapter on `Plea Bargaining.The Chairman,Rajya Sabha has referred the Bill to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. Their report is awaited.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has already introduced Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 in Parliament with a view to reduce the number of pending cases in various courts in the country. However, other steps taken to reduce pendency in courts include periodical monitoring of the pendency position in various courts, timely filing the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.